

## SHOULD A WIFE WORK?

A Powerful Story of the Modern Woman's Great Problem.

At the turn in the road when school days are left behind and the responsibility of life are assumed, Betty Evans and Nina Starr, room-mates at college, pause a moment to conjecture about the future. Does the future hold in store for them a home with a husband and children or a brilliant career? Nina emphatically states her preference for a career.

Five years later, Nina is the wife of a struggling lawyer and the mother of a child. Discontent clouds her eyes and resentment at the petty sacrifices each day demands irritates her. She is the type of a modern woman who weighs marriage and a career in the scales of life, and while bound by the ties of the former, craves the latter as the true means of finding herself; a woman who sees herself facing the great problem of the twentieth century - should wifehood exclude a career? Must a woman subordinate her ambition and her ability to fulfill that ambition to the demands marriage makes upon a woman?

In another part of the city Betty lives in a furnished room and gives music lessons as a means of livelihood. Love has not yet come to her and she is carefully training her voice for the career she hopes may be hers.

Nina's child dies. On the plea of needing a rest, she leaves her home and mingles in the life her marriage had denied her. Nina's voice attracts the attention of a representative of a theatrical company and through his efforts, she secures a part in a musical comedy.

At the home of her music instructor, Madame Theodora, Betty meets Mr. Paget, a wealthy widower, who in the course of the evening mentions that he is promoting a young inventor. Paget, deeply attracted by the girl, invites Madame, his sister-in-law, and Betty to dine with him at his apartment and they accept. Illness prevents Madame Theodora from keeping her engagement. Knowing well her brother-in-law's character, Madame contrives to reach Betty by telephone in her brother-in-law's apartment where Mr. Paget has detained Betty on the plea that his sister-in-law would soon arrive. Betty hastily leaves Mr. Paget's rooms.

Hesitating before a restaurant, Betty enters and is seated at a

table with two young men. They are Mr. Barnes, Nina's husband, and David Locke, the young inventor. With appreciative interest, Barnes sees the evident admiration the girl has inspired in his companion.

Nina returns to her home and prepares for her debut on the stage. Too short funds to be able to afford an accompanist, she confides her trouble to her neighbor who takes Nina to meet her little daughter's music teacher. Betty and Nina greet each other like new-found friends.

The girls' practising distracts the youthful inventor whose rooms are just across the court -- distracts him until he meets Betty. Their marriage follows a rapid wooing and they begin housekeeping in Locke's modest apartment.

A visit to Locke's home and the sight of Betty rouses Mr. Paget's baser emotions. Contriving to get the husband out of the house, Paget forces his attentions on Betty. Locke returns unexpectedly and hurls Paget to the floor. In rage, Paget destroys the invention that was to bring to Locke success and fame and stops the payments that had enabled the young man to conduct his experiments.

Penniless and discouraged in spite of Betty's reassurance, Locke takes a position outside the city. Just before their departure Betty receives an offer to sing. She remains behind and from her income as a singer furnishes her husband with the means that enable him to begin anew and work again at his invention. With an understanding of her husband's pride and character, Betty successfully with-holds from him all knowledge of the source of his income.

Once more successful, Locke returns to his home and finds his wife gone. A letter that instills in him the poison of suspicion leads him to where his wife is singing at a society function. Lurking about his home, he awaits his wife's return.

That night Betty seeks to reconcile Nina to the husband she had deserted when the glamour of a stage career had blinded her. Seeing a man enter his apartment, Locke, almost crazed with jealousy, rushes in. His wife, surprised and happy at his arrival hurries towards him only to meet his angry repulse. Dismayed, Betty looks dumbly at him. Locke bursts open the door of the room where he expects to find his rival and sees there



Nina, sobbing in her husband's arms.

Shamed and repentant, Locke asks Betty's forgiveness, and with the understanding of the loyal wife, Betty promptly forgives and forgets.

~~From~~ From Barnes, overjoyed at his own reunion with his wife, Locke learns that it was through Betty's efforts that he was able to attain success in his invention.

To Nina Barnes, a career meant the breaking up of her home, wrecking her husband's life and her own disillusionment and threatened shame. To Betty Locke, it meant the success of her husband and the foundation of a real home. Should a wife work? Various will be the answers.

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